

**Chapter 19: Improving Sentence Style**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period **1A 4A 1B 2B**

1. Read the passage on p. 510. What *is* varied about Mannix's sentences?
2. What are two benefits to varying sentence beginnings?
3. What warning do you receive about revising sentences to vary sentence beginnings?
4. Read the sidebar. You may have had an elementary school teacher forbid you to start a sentence with a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so). He or she may have told you that doing so creates fragments, and your teacher was right! However, now you're big kids and can play with this a little. What's the new rule for starting sentences with coordinating conjunctions?
5. Read the chart on pages 511 and 512. Write examples of your own. Your sentences must make sense in pairs, but it's okay if you change subjects with each "subject first" sentence. Use the glossary to clarify grammar terms (or infer their meaning from the examples).

Sentence Connectives	
Subject First	
Coordinating Conjunction First	
Subject First	
Conjunctive Adverb First	
Single-Word Modifiers	
Subject First	
Prepositional Phrase First	
Subject First	
Participial Phrase First	
Subject First	
Infinitive Phrase First	
Clause Modifiers	
Subject First	
Adverb Clause First	
Subject First	
Adverb Clause First	

6. Complete Exercise 1 (p. 513) here:

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

7. What does “varying sentence structure” mean?

8. Read the two Bermuda Triangle paragraphs. Why do you think the second (revised) one is better?

9. Complete Exercise 2 here:

10. Annie Dillard flat-out rocks. You better read that sentence.

11. What are three ways to avoid wordiness in your writing?

- a.
- b.
- c.

12. Here are three helpful notes: 1) “wordiness” is also called “verbosity,” 2) “verbosity” is an important term in ACT study guides. Sometimes on the ACT English exam, you’ll encounter questions where two choices are both grammatically and mechanically correct. If that’s the case, choose the shorter answer to show that you know concise (NOT wordy/verbose) writing is best, and 3) ELIMINATING TO BE VERBS usually reduces wordiness too, so . . .

13. What are four ways to revise wordy sentences?

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

14. Look at the chart on p. 516. Copy at least one of the pairs from it that you are likely to use.

15. **Note how many of the “wordy” constructions on the chart include the word “fact”**—vow to avoid these clichéd phrases. Here are some other common wordy phrases I see as I correct papers. Put a star by ones you think you might be prone to use.

WORDY	Simpler
it is clear that	clearly
in order to	to
throughout the entire/throughout the whole /throughout the whole entire	through the whole/throughout
despite the fact that	despite
give (instruction, consideration, encouragement, etc. ) to	instruct, consider, encourage, etc.
is of the opinion that	thinks, believes
exact same	same or exact
as to whether	whether

16. Complete Exercise 3 here:

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

17. Complete Review A here:

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

18. Complete Review B here:

There is one last exercise on the back of this paper. Do not ignore it!